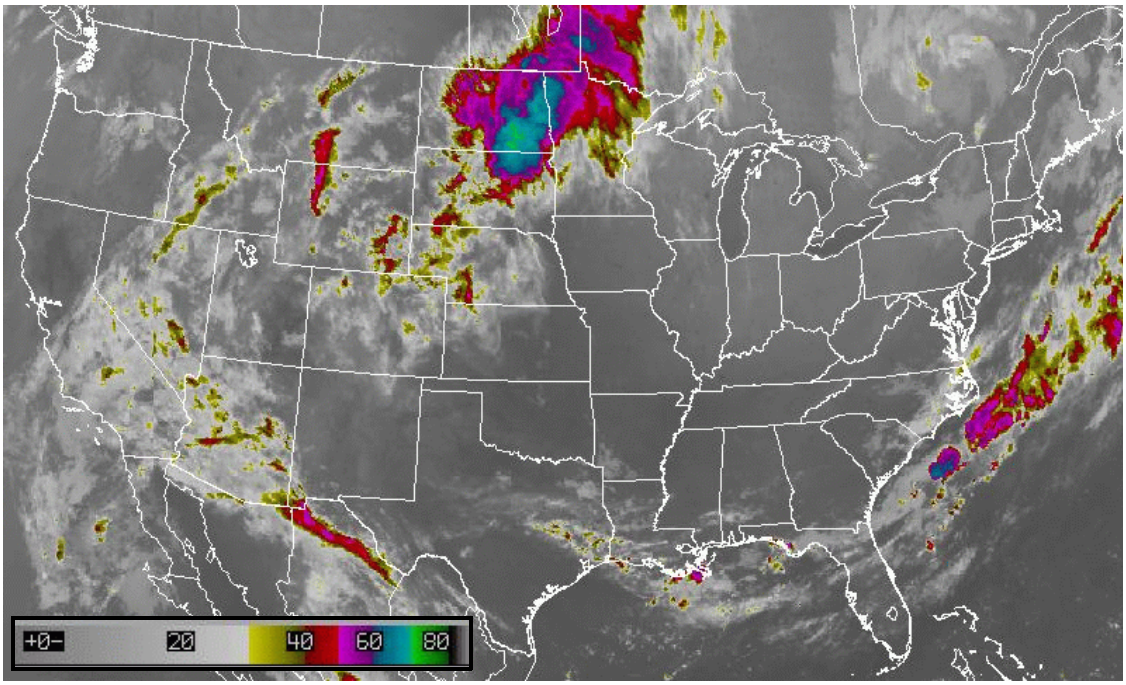

Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:45 a.m. EST ***(NOAA)***

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - July 6, 2001

- ***In the West***, cloudiness and scattered showers continue to ease the effects of the recently ended heat wave, which stressed pastures, filling winter grains, and dryland summer crops.

- ***On the Plains***, very hot, dry weather is overspreading the ***southern half of the region***, aiding final winter wheat harvesting but increasing stress on summer crops, including silking corn, blooming soybeans, boll-setting cotton, pegging peanuts, and heading sorghum. Today's high temperatures are forecast to approach 105 degrees F as far north as ***Kansas***.

- ***In the Corn Belt***, showers and thunderstorms are overspreading ***northwestern areas***, maintaining adequate to locally surplus soil moisture for summer crops. Elsewhere in the region, warm, dry weather (today's highs are forecast to range from 80 to 90 degrees F) favors corn and soybean development and soft red winter wheat harvesting.

- ***In the South***, hot weather is accelerating crop development in areas from the ***Delta westward***, where highs are forecast to range from 95 to 100 degrees F. Meanwhile in the ***Southeast***, warm weather, scattered showers, and generally adequate topsoil moisture levels are maintaining favorable conditions for corn, soybeans, cotton, peanuts, and other summer crops.

Outlook: On the ***central and southern Plains***, hot, mostly dry weather is forecast to persist into next week. In contrast, warm weather and scattered showers are expected in the ***Corn Belt and Southeast***. Beneficial showers are also forecast to continue in the ***West***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for July 11-15 calls for a return to hot, mostly dry weather in the ***West***. Hot, dry conditions are also forecast to affect the ***southern half of Texas***. Across the ***Plains and Corn Belt***, widespread showers will help to offset the effects of near- to above-normal temperatures. Meanwhile, cool, wet weather is expected along the ***East Coast***.

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